



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

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Contact: Heather Lombardini
(517) 373-1707

Sen. Laura M. Toy: ‘Garden City schools poised to see \$800,000 funding boost in ‘06-07’

LANSING – State Sen. Laura M. Toy, 6th District, announced that the Michigan Senate approved an \$800,000 increase Garden City school officials had been hoping for to bolster the district’s budget for the 2006-2007 school year – \$300,000 more than expected.

“Education is critical to our state’s economic future,” Sen. Toy said. “The investments we make in our young people today are also an investment in the workforce of tomorrow. I am proud to help secure this funding for Garden City schools.”

Garden City Public Schools, along with six other school districts across the state, were levying mills to finance an operating deficit in 1993. The money, however, was not included in the district’s foundation allowance – the amount of funding a district receives for each of its pupils – following the passage of Proposal A.

The school aid budget approved by the Senate includes this money in Garden City’s foundation allowance calculation for the first time.

“We are very grateful for all of Senator Laura Toy’s hard work in Lansing on our behalf,” said Garden City Public Schools Superintendent Richard Witkowski. “This funding would not be in place without Senator Toy’s efforts and diligence.”

Mike Riley, president of the Garden City Education Association, also praised Toy’s efforts.

“She’s right in there fighting for us,” Riley said. “Laura Toy has been a great advocate for public education and for our district. She does a wonderful and fantastic job.”

The school aid budget, Senate Bill 1095, must now go to the governor for review. If approved by the governor, the funding will go into effect during the state’s new fiscal year which begins on October 1, 2006.

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